

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 16-20.

Please add claims 21-25.

A complete list of the pending claims follows:

1. (Original) A data entry device comprising:
a key having a first data entry value associated with depressing the key;
the key having one or more additional discrete data entry values associated with deflecting the key in a predetermined direction;
the key having a user readable indication of each of the one or more additional discrete data entry values; and
where the key is adapted for being depressed or deflected by a human fingertip.
2. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the first data entry value is a numeric data value and the one or more additional discrete data entry values are alphabetic data values.
3. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the one or more additional discrete data entry values are each associated with a predetermined zone around a periphery of the key.
4. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the one or more additional discrete data entry values are each associated with an adjustable zone around a periphery of the key.
5. (Original) The data entry device of claim 4 further comprising a controllable display around the periphery of the key.
6. (Original) The data entry device of claim 5 wherein the controllable display is an LCD.
7. (Original) The data entry device of claim 3 wherein the number of predetermined zones is user selectable.

8. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is square in shape and the number of predetermined directions are four.
9. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is circular in shape and the number of predetermined directions are four, six, or eight.
10. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is hexagonal in shape and the number of predetermined directions are six.
11. (Original) The data entry device of claim 1 wherein the key is octagonal in shape and the number of predetermined directions are eight.
12. (Original) A data entry device comprising:
a plurality of keys, each key having a first data entry value associated with depressing the key; and
each key having one or more additional discrete data entry values associated with deflecting the key in a predetermined direction.
13. (Original) The data entry device of claim 12 wherein the plurality of keys is a 12-key telephone numeric keypad, and the additional discrete data entry values are alphabetic data values.
14. (Original) The data entry device of claim 12 wherein the plurality of keys is a three-key watch keypad, and the additional discrete data entry values are numeric data values.
15. (Original) The data entry device of claim 12 wherein the plurality of keys is a three-key handheld computer keypad, and the additional discrete data entry values are representative of a QWERTY keyboard.
- 16-20. (Cancelled).
21. (New) A method of providing a soft key in a system with a hardware key having more than two states, comprising:

defining a plurality of data zones, each of the plurality of data zones corresponding to one of the states of the hardware key;
performing a user selection test of the data zones;
notifying the user if the user selection test produces acceptable results;
configuring a plurality of soft key data values corresponding to the data zones; and
generating a soft key display based on the data zones.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the user selection test prompts the user to select each of the data zones, and

wherein an acceptable result indicates the user can correctly select between the data zones and an unacceptable result indicates the user will have problems selecting between data zones.

23. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

selecting a different number of data zones if the user selection test produces an unacceptable result; and
repeating performing the user selection test.

24. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

selecting a different number of data zones if the user selection test produces acceptable results; and
repeating performing the user selection test.

25. (New) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

receiving a soft key input data responsive to user activation of the soft key;
correlating the soft key input data to one of the plurality of data zones; and
generating an input data set from the soft key data value corresponding to the one of the plurality of data zones.